Texas Cooperative EXTENSION
The Texas A&M University System

Northwest Plains Pest Management News

Volume 4 Issue 13 | Bailey and Parmer Counties | August 12, 2005

Scattered showers popped up across the area this week, some of which carried large amounts of hail which damaged and in some cases destroyed crops. Some of the areas hit hardest were in southern Bailey county, the Farwell area, and Rhea area.

Spider mites continue to flourish in area corn, some of which has already been treated for mites. Both the Banks grass mite and twospotted spider mite have been observed locally. The Banks grass mite is the predominant species and is more widely distributed than the twospotted spider mite. It is important to distinguish between these two species because some presently registered miticides generally will not control twospotted spider mites in tassel-stage corn. The most useful characteristic for distinguishing between these two species is the pattern of pigmentation spots on the body. The adult twospotted spider mite has a well defined spot on each side of the front half of the abdomen. The spots on the adult Banks grass mite extend all the way down both sides of the body, sometimes almost touching at the rear of the body. Additionally, twospotted spider mites produce more webbing than Banks grass mites.

Cotton Heat Unit Accumulation[1]

Location	Current	2004	Long Term[2]
Farwell	1306	1228	
Friona	1322	1271	
Muleshoe	1275		1300
Muleshoe WR	1380	1347	

[1.] *DD 60 based on May 1*
[2.] *Based on Muleshoe long term weather data 1971-2000*

Twospotted spider mite and eggs.

Much of the corn in the Northwest Plains has began to dent and some has reached full dent. Mite feeding after full dent will not cause yield loss, but it could contribute to plant lodging and or broken tops if the

Daily Water Use

Crop	Inches per day
Corn	.30
Cotton	.30
Grain Sorghum	.25
Bermuda grass	.20
Fescue/ Bluegrass	.27

mite pressure is severe especially when additional stress, ie drought, is incurred.

Southwestern corn borer eggs and larvae continue to be found, infestations have ranged from near zero to over 40% plants infested. Late planted corn is particularly susceptible to corn borer damage.

A few **cotton bollworm** eggs and larvae can be found in most area cotton. Most fields have less than 2,000 eggs and or small larvae per acre. Generally, in the Northwest Plains, bollworms have an acute infestation as opposed to a chronic infestation common in other parts of the state. The mass egg lay is expected in the next ten days.

Cotton bollworm eggs.

Remember the economic threshold for bollworm in conventional (non-Bt) cotton is reached when counts average 8,000-10,000 or more small worms (less than 1/4 inch) per acre. This threshold takes into consideration natural mortality which commonly occurs from egg hatch till larvae reach 1/4 inch or so. The actual treatment level will vary according to the ability of the individual scout to locate small larvae, the age structure of the infestation, maturity of the crop and crop value.

Bollgard cotton is highly effective against tobacco budworms and is also effective against cotton bollworm, but under heavy bollworm pressure an insecticide treatment may be needed. Bollgard II and Widestrike are the next "generation" of Bt cotton and have shown to be much more effective on bollworms than the original Bollgard technology. Treatment of Bt cotton should not be triggered by the presence of eggs alone. Hatching larvae must first feed on the cotton plant to receive a toxic dose. Treatment with foliar insecticides for bollworm should be considered when 5,000 larvae per acre larger than 1/4 inch are present and 5 to 15 percent of the squares or bolls are worm damaged.

Cotton bollworm on bloom.

Aphids are feeding in plant terminals and on squares in most area cotton which is not uncommon this time of year. These aphids should be closely monitored as the season progresses.

Monti Vandiver
Extension Agent-Integrated Pest Management
Texas Cooperative Extension
401 3rd Street
Farwell, Texas
806-481-3300

http://txipmnet.tamu.edu
http://parmer-tx.tamu.edu